

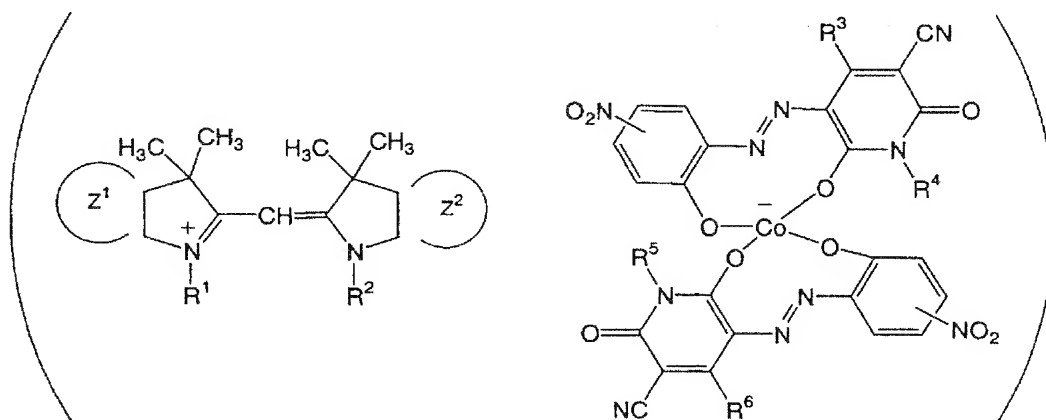
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cyanine dye which is represented by ~~General-Formula 1~~ and which exhibits a major absorption maximum at a wavelength longer than 400 nm in a solution and has a molar absorption coefficient ( $\epsilon$ ) of at least  $5 \times 10^4$ [[.]];

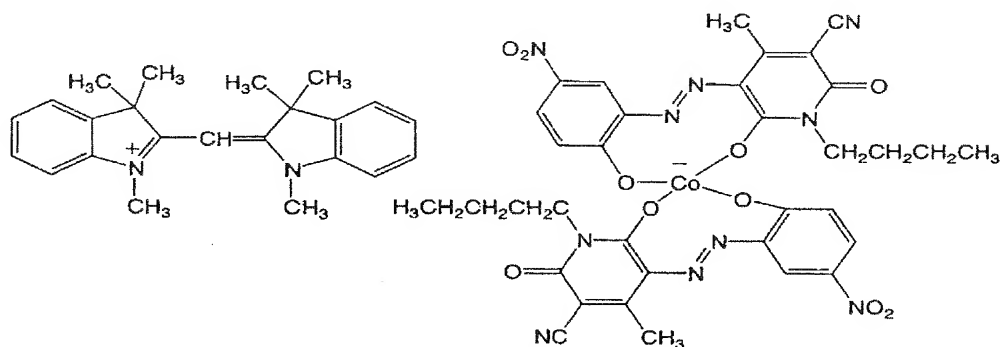
~~General-Formula 1:~~



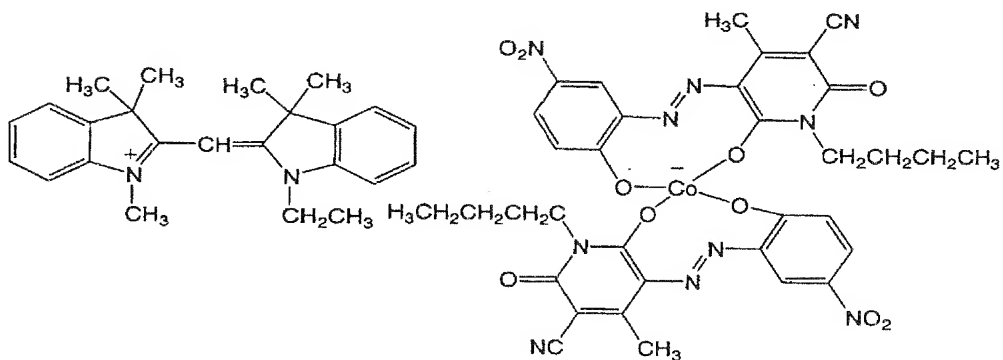
~~(In General wherein in Formula 1, Z<sup>1</sup> and Z<sup>2</sup> mean monocyclic or condensed heterocyclic aromatic rings which are the same or different from each other-, and R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>6</sup> independently denote aliphatic hydrocarbon groups and their aliphatic hydrocarbon groups which may optionally bear a substituent.)~~

2. (New) The cyanine dye according to claim 1  
selected from the group consisting of:

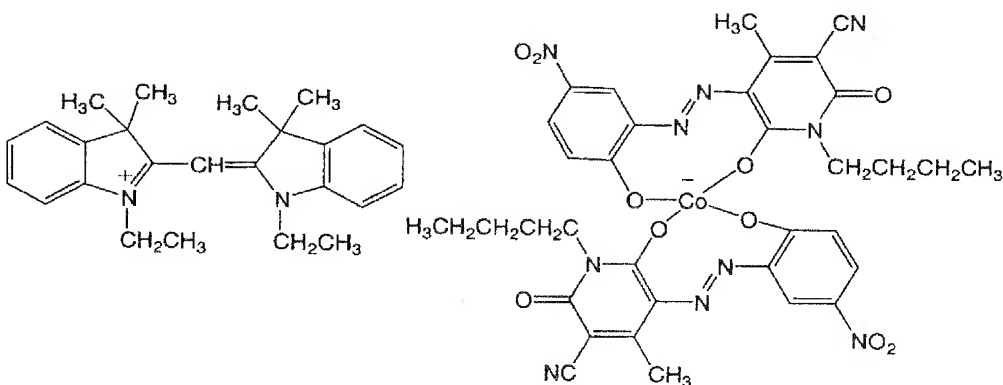
Chemical Formula 1:



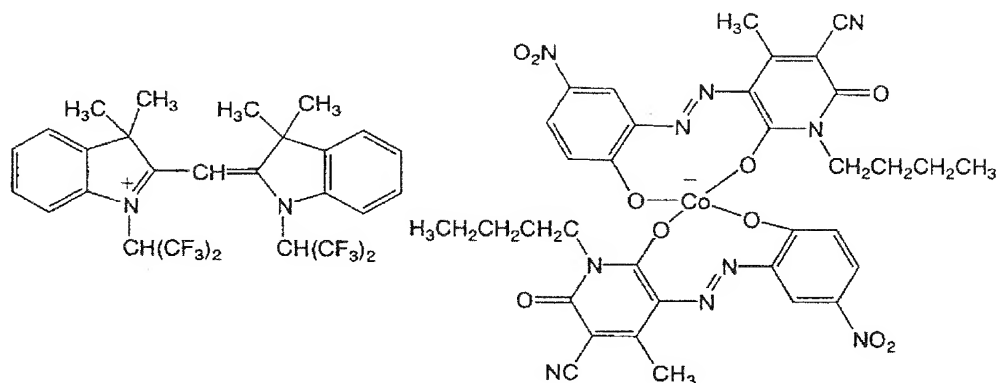
Chemical Formula 2:



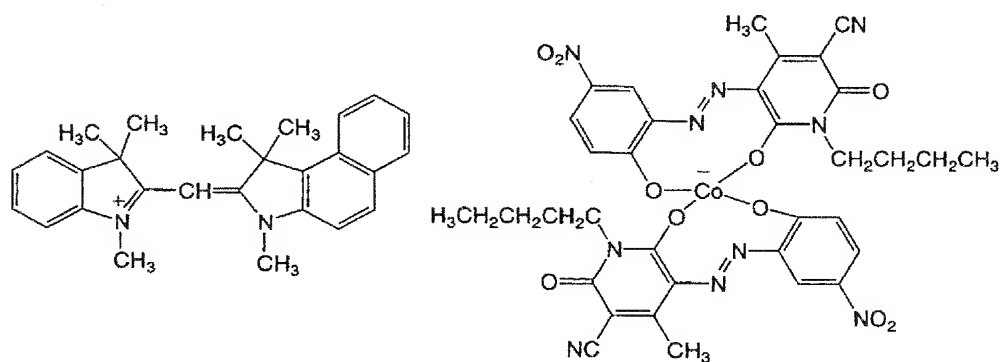
Chemical Formula 3:



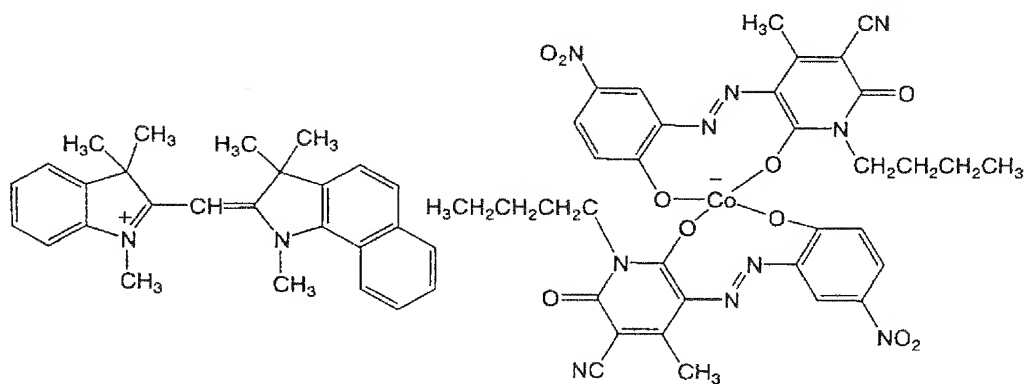
Chemical Formula 4:



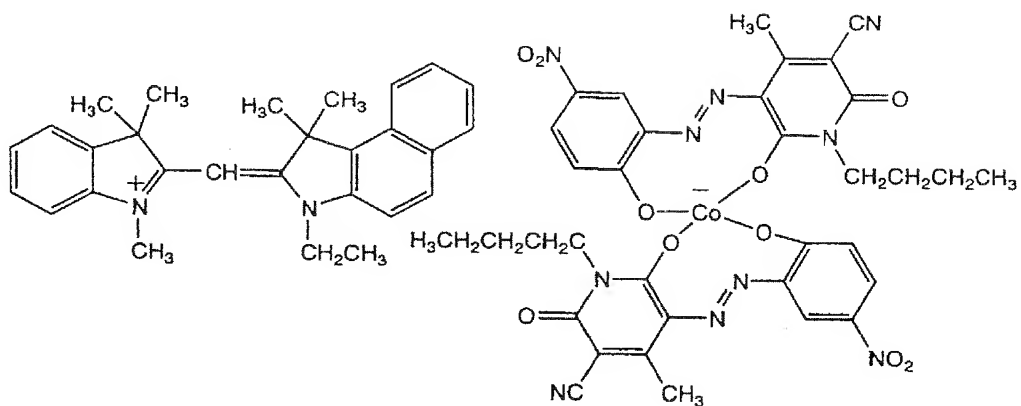
Chemical Formula 5:



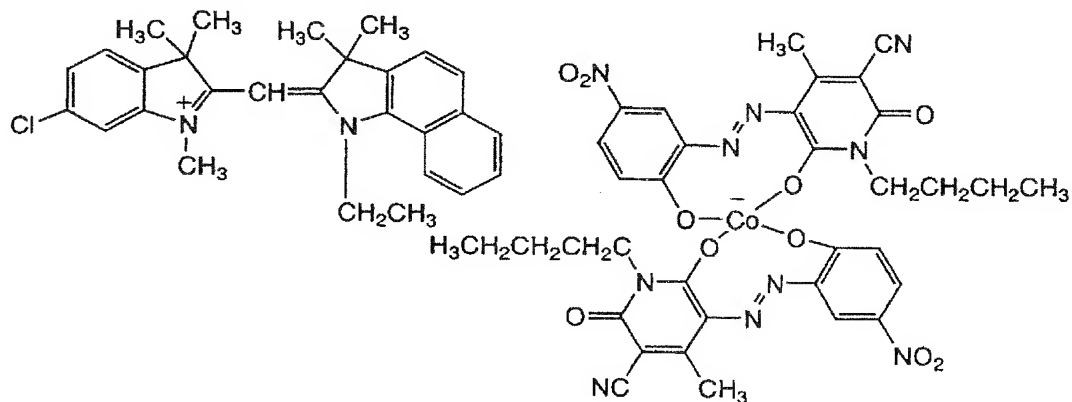
Chemical Formula 6:



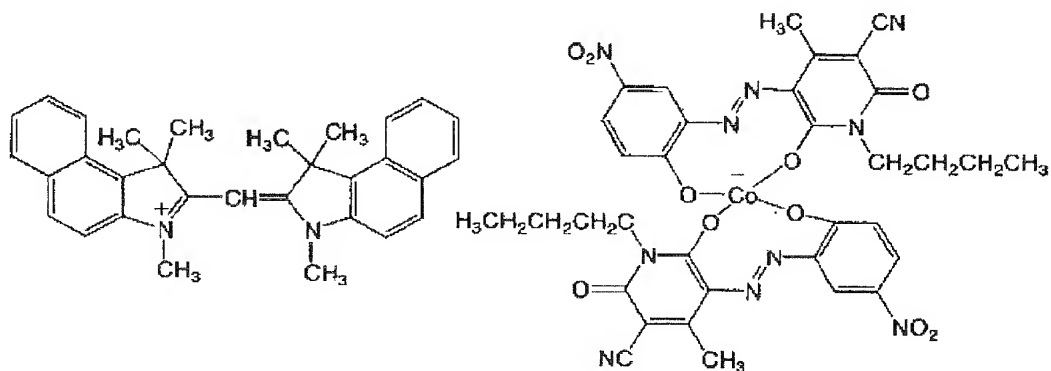
Chemical Formula 7:



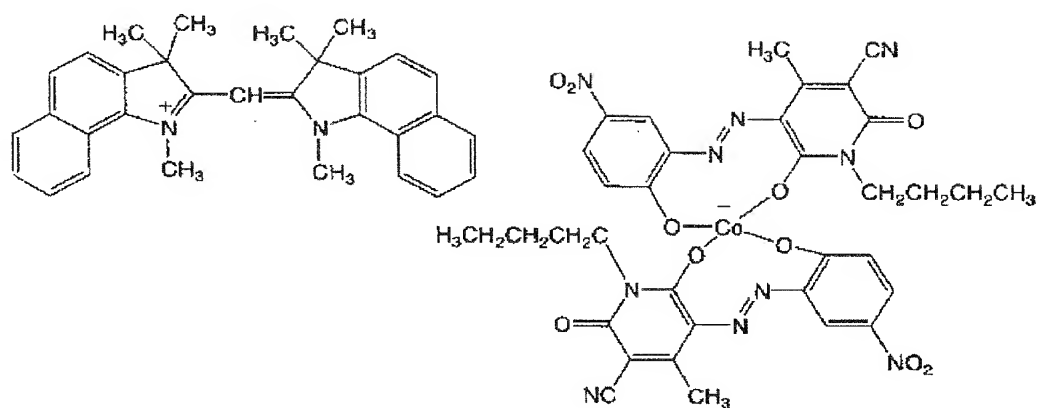
Chemical Formula 8:



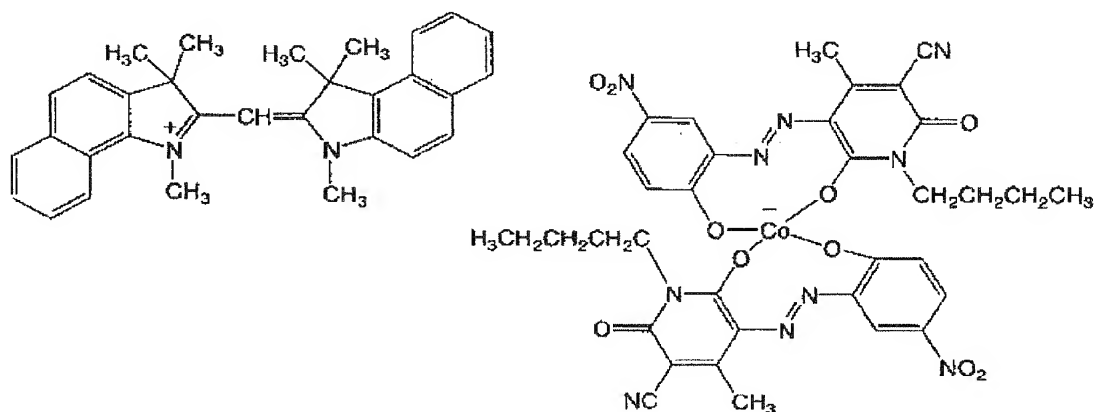
Chemical Formula 9:



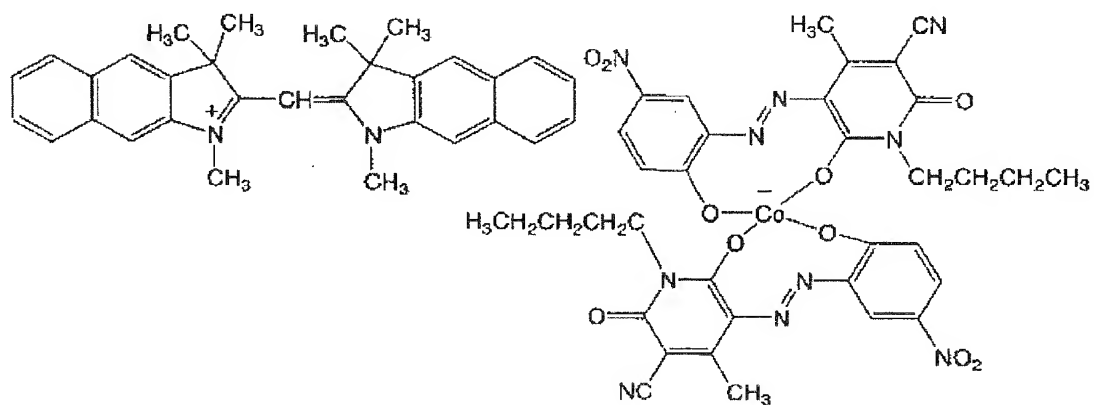
Chemical Formula 10:



Chemical Formula 11:

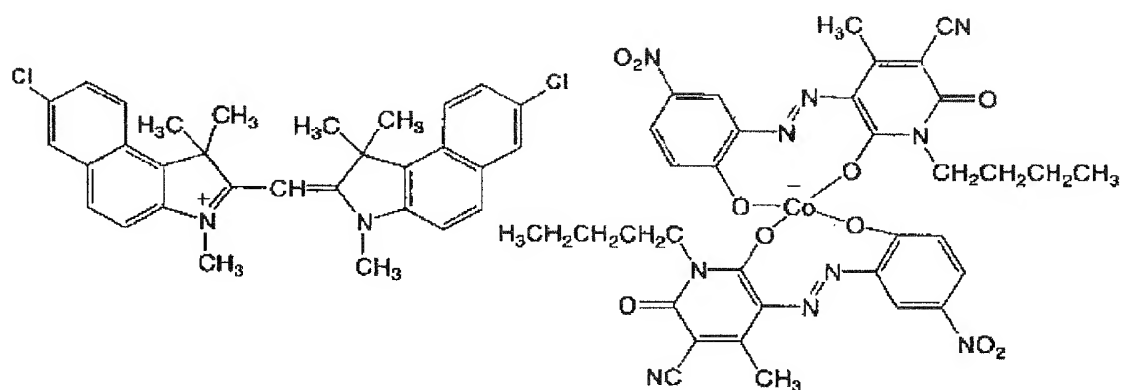


Chemical Formula 12:



and

Chemical Formula 13:



3. (New) The cyanine dye according to claim 1  
wherein the absorption maximum is about 430 to 550 nm.